



# Smoke Signals

Newsletter of the Fullerton Radio Club

April 2006

**FULLERTON RADIO CLUB NET; Each Tuesday, 8:00 PM; 147.975 (-) PL 114.8**

**Club Meeting**  
**Wednesday, April 19, 2006**  
**Fullerton Senior Center**  
340 W. Commonwealth Ave.  
Fullerton  
QSO Time: 7:00 PM  
Meeting: 7:30 PM

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It seems that our activities for the next few weeks will be focusing on trains, with the April meeting topic on railroad communication, followed shortly by the Railroad Days activity (May 6 & 7). I urge all members to identify friends and family who have interest in trains and invite them to both activities. Personally, I've followed the local train communication with my HT, and have even done a bit of rail-mobile activity during a trip to Chicago a few years ago. Please keep the Railroad Days project in your plans, and make a place on your schedule for either Saturday May 6 or Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup> to join us for a public demonstration of amateur radio at this very well attended activity at the Fullerton Amtrak station. We need assistance with the booth, so let us know when you are available.

The Club also needs your input as we search for an optimum site for our Field Day activities. The usual site at Hillcrest Park is not available this year due to City work on the park and water tank. Location options should include; public exposure, area for antennas, shelter potential, and restroom availability. If you have ideas of a good site please contact one of the Club Board members with your suggestion. Field Day will be upon us sooner than we expect, so give us your suggestions ASAP.

Antennas in the Park is also just around the corner – Saturday, May 13. As always, the activity will be at Tri-City Park in Placentia. We are targeting a location in the northeast corner of the Park as used last year. We will be setting up HF, VHF and UHF gear (with antennas, of course) for those who want to be on the air at the event. Hopefully, we can use this as a good introduction to ham radio for the public that may be in the park. One of the planned events is a hidden transmitter hunt (fox hunt). Activities will begin at about 10:00AM and continue to at least 3:00PM – depending on the successes of foxhunters. Bring your lunch. There will be plenty of Bar-B-Q space if you want to cook your own burgers, steaks or hot dogs.

73 for now. Hope to see you at these events.

Paul, K6MHD



## APRIL CLUB PROGRAM

In the last decade, railroads have removed the wire lines that ran along the tracks and replaced the signaling circuits that they carried with modern wide area networks that can use fiber optic, microwave and radio links. The specific system architecture and communications protocol most generally used today, nationwide, is known as ATCS. Activity on local ATCS digital radio links, in particular, allows hobbyists to eavesdrop on nearby railroad operations in real time. A lot of this technology will be familiar to hams interested in the digital modes.

The April Fullerton Radio Club meeting presentation will briefly cover railroad dispatching, signaling concepts and general train operation. The meaning and implementation of ATCS will be explained and the hardware and software necessary to monitor the ATCS protocol will be discussed. The challenges for the hobbyist in making sensible use of received data will also be discussed. A live demonstration of software, using real time signals from both radio and the Internet, will provide a dynamic situation display of local rail lines. The audience will be able to see where the trains are and watch their progress on a display similar to that used by the railroad dispatcher. We might even be able to anticipate a train or two as they pass by the meeting site.

73

DALE, KI6ANS



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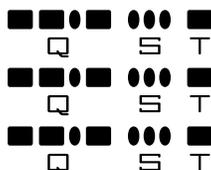
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**DonateLIFE 5K/1K Fun Run**

**Saturday 29 April 2006**  
**Needed approx. 20 Amateur**  
**Radio Operators:**  
**Where: CSUF**

Some of you may have said YES already. If not, and you can help PLEASE give me a call on the N6ME Rptr. 145.400- PI.103.5 or via Phone at 714-680-4258.

This is a Fun Event to do and is over by 10:00am, or so. More info to follow.

Thanks, Gene Thorpe  
KB6CMO

God Bless and Take Care of You  
Always Say A Prayer (ASAP)  
Gene Thorpe, KB6CMO

**VE Exam Session**

Bob's garage held an examination session on Sat, 8th of April. Two applicants attended and both were successful for the Tech level. This was a husband and wife team. Also had a Grandfather General level accomplished.

Next session will be held on June 10th. Bob holds exams on the second Saturday of every even month. Please call Bob at (562) 691-1514 to pre-register one week prior to the date.

**Board Minutes April 5, 2006**

Meeting began at 7:34 P.M. at Marie Callender's in Placentia  
Members present for Fullerton Radio Club board meeting: President Paul Broden; Vice President Bill Kohlenberger; Secretary Gary Miller; Treasurer Manuel Borges; Board Members Gene Thorpe, Cheryl Thorpe, Tom Curlee; and OCCARO Representative Larry McDavid

Speakers/ Topic for April: Dale Petes, K16ANS; Railroad Communications

Bylaws Committee: On "hold" for the moment

Railroad Days: The club has heard from the Railroad Plaza Association. They wanted to make sure that only one site was correct for this year. We will try and get the site on the north end where Phil's train was last year.

Antennas in the Park: May 13 at Tri-City Park. The club will need someone to save the area in the NE corner of the park early Saturday morning. Other groups have been invited to attend again this year.

Field Day: A location is needed for this year. The cabin is not accessible this year. If you can think of a spot where we can operate through the night, contact a club officer.

Donate for Life: Volunteers are needed for the morning of April 29. The 5k / 10k run will be at CSUF. Contact Gene, KB6CMO if you can help.

Drawings: Prizes this month

Meeting ended at 8:42 p.m.

Gary Miller, ka6gpc  
Secretary Fullerton Radio Club

**FRC T-Hunt Report**

The March 18 FRC transmitter hider was Dave Balgie N6MJN. His transmitter ran about 100 milliwatts into a 4-element quad from the far west end of Talbert Avenue at the Bolsa Chica wetlands in Huntington Beach. Nobody went directly to it, but KF6GQ had best mileage.

Calls	Miles
KF6GQ	21.1
KG6RQQ/KG6LSE	22.9
N6AIN/WA6PYE	25.7
W6DWF/KG6ZOE	26.8

73,  
Joe Moell K0OV

**Monthly Board Meeting**  
 Open to all Members  
 Marie Callender's Restaurant  
 126 Yorba Linda Blvd.  
 Placentia  
**Next Board Meeting: May 3, 2006**  
 Talk and Dinner: 7:00 PM  
 Meeting: 7:30 PM

**Orange County Council of Amateur Radio  
 Organizations (OCCARO) Web Site**  
[www.occaro.org](http://www.occaro.org)

**Fullerton Radio Club Web Site**  
<http://www.FullertonRadioClub.org>

**VE Sessions**  
 For Information Contact  
**Bob Reitzel, KD6DA**  
 (562) 691-1514  
 Next VE Exams: **June 10, 2006**  
***Please call one week in advance to  
 reserve a place***

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 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL / APPLICATION  
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[Please Print]

**Name #1;** \_\_\_\_\_ **Call:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Class:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Fax:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ARRL Member**  Yes  No

**Name #2;** \_\_\_\_\_ **Call:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Class:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Fax:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ARRL Member**  Yes  No

Dues are \$20 per member, or \$25 per family, Student (Full-time) \$10.00  
 Bring your dues payment to the next meeting or mail to the above PO Box.